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Legal fees no biggie: Harper

The PM says paying senators' legal fees is normal; meanwhile, Wallin and Brazeau say that no one offered to help them PAGE 6

Yeah, well, stencil graffiti art is tired

World-renowned street artist Banksy disses the new World Trade Center by saying, "It looks like something they would build in Canada" PAGE 9

WILL BUTLER FEELS THE ISLAND RHYTHMS

THE BAND WITH THAT SOUND THAT WE ALL SEEM TO REALLY ENJOY WAS INSPIRED TO MAKE REFLEKTOR AFTER A TRIP TO HAITI PAGE 11

HELP US HELP THEM: SPCA

Tiffiny Koback, shelter director of the Saskatoon SPCA, says the organization is pleading with the public to become more responsible pet owners. She says the SPCA has seen cat intake double since the beginning of 2013 and now, for the second time this year, the shelter is at capacity for cats. Story, page 4.

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Premiers urge pipeline action

Trade conference in Ottawa. Wall, N.B.'s Alward want projects such as Energy East line to move forward

All of Canada will reap the rewards of moving landlocked Canadian oil to coastal ports to allow its sale to international markets, two of the country's premiers said in Ottawa on Tuesday.

"Every province, every region, every community, every Canadian will benefit when we're able to diversify our markets and get full value for the resources that we have," New Brunswick Premier Dave Alward told a trade conference hosted by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

Alward and his Saskatchewan colleague, Brad Wall, urged provinces like Quebec and Ontario against standing in the way of pipeline projects such as TransCanada's proposed Energy East line, which they say would speed Canadian oil to market.

TransCanada recently delayed until next year its goal of filing an application for the $12-billion Energy East project with the National Energy Board. The company said there's too much work to be done to file the application before the end of the year.

The 4,500-kilometre pipeline would ship up to 1.1 million barrels per day of Alberta oilsands bitumen to refineries and export terminals in Quebec and New Brunswick.

Wall expressed dismay that Canada seems almost "apologetic" about the fact that it's an energy powerhouse. Canada is third in the world in oil reserves and in the Top 10 in terms of oil production, "but we're not acting like it," Wall noted.

"A country with all of this would find ways to move energy to tidewater, to improve the return to Canadians for the resource, to ensure there are jobs for the future for all of us," Wall said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Feds raise cap

More immigrant nominees for province: Wall

Premier Brad Wall says the federal government is going to allow more people to move to the province under the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program.

The province will be allowed 4,725 immigrants in 2014 — up from 4,450 this year.

Wall — who is in Ottawa for meetings with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and some federal cabinet ministers — says the province would like to see more, but calls the latest increase progress. Saskatchewan has been lobbying Ottawa to increase the number of immigrants allowed into the province to help deal with a shortage in skilled labour.

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Artist fears for his works

Ben Clarkson.
Beijing gallery website appears dismantled by Chinese government

A Prairie-educated Canadian artist says an anticipated gallery showing for his works in China has gone from a dream come true to a nightmare.

Ben Clarkson, who got his start as an artist in Manitoba, sent 14 of his pieces for a showing at Duck Soup Projects in Beijing, but it appears the gallery's website — and his work — have since disappeared.

Earlier this month, the gallery confirmed that it received the art and was preparing for the show. But when Clarkson checked the gallery's website, ducksoup.cn, a day after the scheduled opening, he saw an emblem for the Chinese government and a message, loosely translated, stating the site had "been seized and shut down" and that would-be visitors should not "attempt to contact this website."

"I want to know where my work is, and I want to know what happened to it," Clarkson told Metro from Montreal.

"It's really hard to get attention in the Canadian market, so I was just excited to get into a more exclusive-sounding market overseas."

Most of the works — some of them mixed medium art — focus on China's nuclear policy. Two of the pieces are of Chinese artist Ai Weiwei and communist revolutionary Mao Zedong.

Jason Q. Ng, a research fellow at the University of Toronto's Citizen Lab and an expert on China's online censorship, said the message on the website appears authentic.

"That's the kind of notice you would see if the website was seized or if the government ordered the ISP to shut it down," Ng explained.

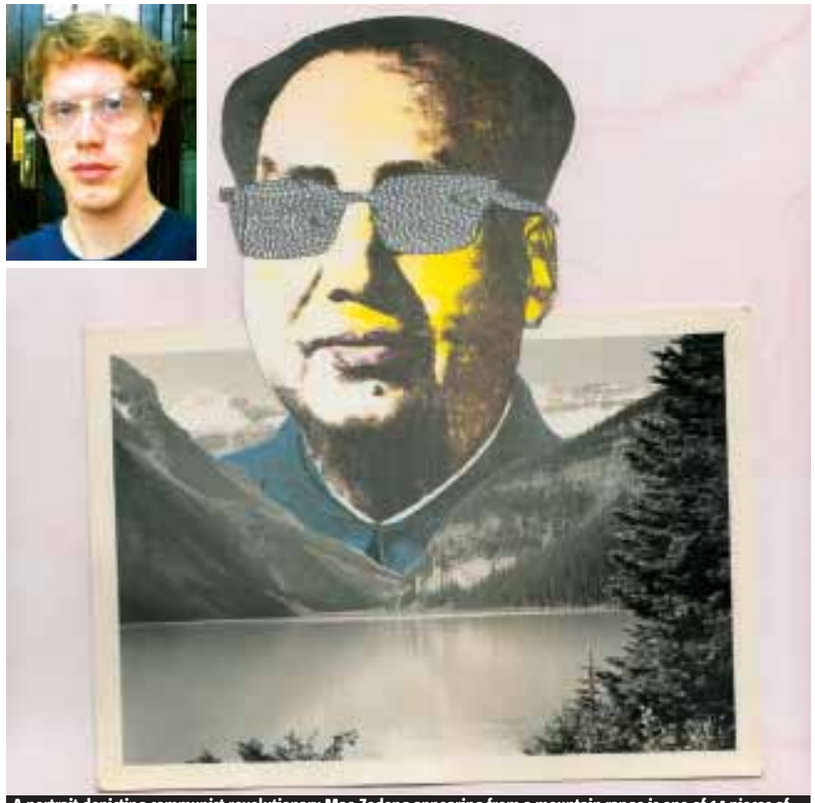
It's difficult, he added, to know what has happened to the gallery and its owner.

A spokesman for the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs said in an email that "Canadians requiring consular services abroad can contact the network of more than 260 offices in 150 countries."

The gallery's management could not be reached. Staff at the Chinese Embassy in Ottawa said they knew nothing of the matter and wouldn't comment.

Clarkson said he plans to write an open letter to the Chinese government and will contact the Canadian consular offices in China to try to find out what happened.

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO



A portrait depicting communist revolutionary Mao Zedong appearing from a mountain range is one of 14 pieces of art that were sent to a gallery in Beijing by Ben Clarkson, inset. The gallery's website appears to have been shut down by the Chinese government. COURTESY BEN CLARKSON

Crime

Man held in custody after fatal shooting

A 45-year-old man is dead and another man is in police custody following an apparent shooting Tuesday in a rural area seven kilometres northeast of Prince Albert.

Mounties in Prince Albert say they received a complaint just after 8 a.m. about a shooting at a rural property.

Upon arriving at the scene, police say they discovered the body of the 45-year-old man, who appeared to be the victim of gunshots.

An autopsy is to be conducted in the near future.

METRO

Crime

Son accused of murder after father disappears

A Saskatchewan man has been charged with murder in connection to the disappearance of his father in a small northern village.

Blaine Lake RCMP say Arnoldo Rey Jr. has been charged with second-degree murder and indignity to a dead human body after investigators discovered human remains Monday night at a property belonging to Arnoldo Rey Sr. in Krydor, some 100 kilometres north of Saskatoon.

Investigators say the identity of the remains still needs to be confirmed and an autopsy will be conducted.

Mounties say Rey Sr. was reported missing on May 28 after he hadn't been seen for several months.

Rey Jr. will be held in custody until his next appearance on Nov. 12 in Saskatoon provincial court. METRO

SPCA pleads with public for responsible pet ownership

Norway, a grey male tabby, is one of roughly 160 cats under the SPCA's care. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Addressing the issue. Public perspective needs to change to curb cat population

MORGAN MODJESKI
morgan.modjeski@metronews.ca

The Saskatoon SPCA is pleading with the public to become more responsible pet owners.

Tiffiny Koback, shelter director of the Saskatoon Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) said they're currently at capacity for cats for a second time in 2013. She says the public's perspective on pet ownership needs to change to address the problem.

"With all of the education and responsible ownership information out there, these numbers should be coming down," Koback said on Tuesday.

Since the beginning of the year, cat intake at the SPCA has nearly doubled, going from roughly 120 to 130 cats a month, to approximately 260 since July.

While the SPCA doesn't euthanize cats ready for adoption, it's been euthanizing between 70 and 100 cats every month, as they don't have the space or resources to get those cats healthy enough to find a new home.

"We're supposed to be here to look after the best interest of animals and prevent cruelty, abuse and promote education and responsible pet ownership," she said.

"Somehow that message isn't being heard ... because we're not seeing positive results in the efforts that we've done up to now."

Euthanasia of animals is considered a last resort at the SPCA, but Koback explained there are not many options when the shelter is over capacity by more than 40 cats.

"We have to look at how we manage the population so we're not having to make those decisions and we really need the public to step up and help."

The SPCA said the best way pet owners can help control the cat population in Saskatoon is to spay and neuter their pets. If your cat is fertile, they advise that you keep it indoors and away from other cats.

Legacy of Mosaic Stadium in Regina to live on

The latest additions to Mosaic Stadium will be used by sports and arts organizations in communities across Saskatchewan, even after the home of the Roughriders is torn down.

The semi-permanent seats and suites installed at Mosaic Stadium last year will be distributed to groups across the province once the Roughriders relocate to Evraz Place as part of the team's "legacy project" for the upcoming Grey Cup.

"The legacy project is going to give communities across the province the opportunity to get pieces of this project and have (grandstands) and boxes," Roughriders president and CEO Jim Hopson said on Tuesday at Mosaic Stadium.

"Whether it's sport or culture, it's really going to be great to see (these seats) out there."

Recipients of the seats will be determined through an application process focusing on why the seats are needed and how the applicant plans to pay for the shipping and installation of the fixtures.

"There is a cost to moving these (seats)," Hopson acknowledged.

"But the cost, even with the transportation, is still significantly less and a fraction of what they would pay to have these installed new."

Gene Makowsky, a former Riders player and legislative secretary to the provincial minister of parks, culture and sport, said the seats, which were built so Mosaic Stadium could host the Grey Cup next month, "will eventually become a welcome addition to multipurpose facilities."

The costs of "additional components," such as guardrails and stairs, will be covered by the organizations that want the seats, according to a press release from the CFL team.

Following nearly a century of football at what's now Mosaic Stadium at Taylor Field, the facility will be demolished after the Roughriders move to their new home, scheduled to be completed in 2017.

The city plans to redevelop the site where Mosaic Stadium stands into a multi-use neighbourhood.

MARCO VIGLIOTTI/METRO REGINA

Roughriders president Jim Hopson. MARCO VIGLIOTTI/METRO

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White extremists sentenced after decade-long trial

South Africa. Members of Boeremag group given 5 to 35 years for plot to overthrow government, kill Nelson Mandela

White extremists who set off a series of bombs, plotted to overthrow the South African government and kill Nelson Mandela were given jail terms Tuesday, ending the first major treason trial under post-apartheid laws that many hope will deter future radicals.

The sentences for up to 20 defendants between the ages of 32 and 74 ranged from five years to 35 years. Some will be released on suspended sentences, while the leaders will serve the longest terms.

Members of the Afrikaner extremist group Boeremag, or white farmer force, last year were convicted of treason for a plot, in the late 1990s and early 2000, to violently overthrow South Africa's government. The African National Congress formed the country's government when Mandela was elected to office in 1994.

Rudi Gouws, a member of Afrikaner extremist group Boeremag, stands in the dock before sentencing proceedings at the High Court in Pretoria, South Africa, Tuesday. A South Africa court handed members of the white extremist group sentences ranging from five to 35 years in prison for various charges including high treason and murder in the country's first post-apartheid treason trial.

THEMBA HADEBE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Some members were also convicted of culpable homicide and conspiring to murder for a thwarted plan to kill Mandela. The group claimed responsibility for a series of bombings that killed a woman and caused damage throughout the Johannesburg township of Soweto in 2002. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow

Bolshoi dancer pleads not guilty in acid-attack case

A Bolshoi ballet dancer who is accused of ordering an acid attack on the company's ballet chief pleaded not guilty Tuesday as his trial began in Moscow.

Dancer Pavel Dmitrichenko is suspected of ordering the Jan. 17 attack on ballet artistic director Sergei Filin, which left Filin with severe burns to his face and his eyes, impairing his vision.

Dmitrichenko entered his plea as a Russian judge began hearing the trial into the attack that has exposed a fierce power struggle at the famous Russian theatre.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Costa Concordia. Woman with captain during crash testifies they were lovers

A Moldovan dancer who had been on the bridge of the Costa Concordia cruise ship when it crashed into a reef off Italy electrified the captain's manslaughter trial Tuesday by testifying that the two were lovers.

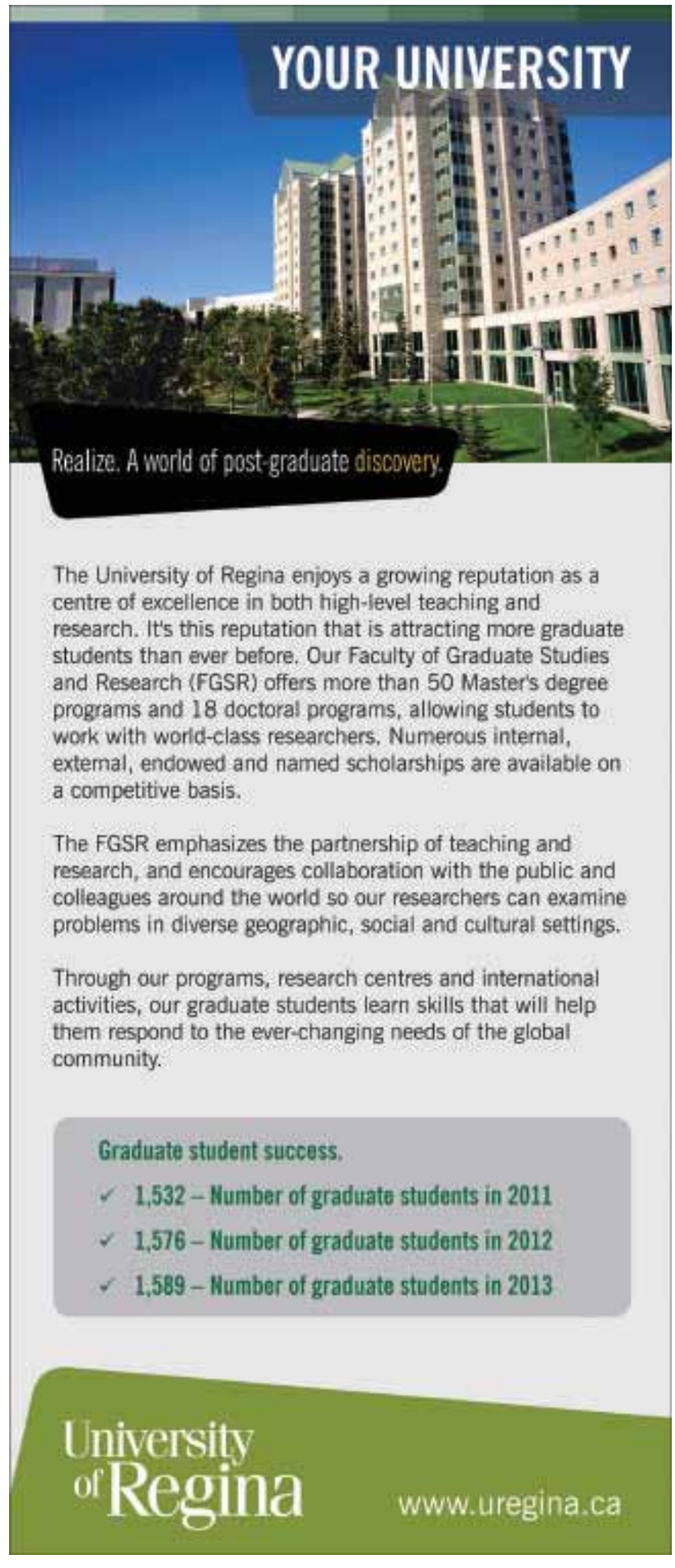
Domnica Cemortan, 26, only made the admission after being warned by the judge that she risked criminal charges if she didn't answer the question.

The ship's former captain, Francesco Schettino, is charged with manslaughter for the 32 people who died in the crash, with causing the shipwreck on the night of Jan. 13, 2012, and with abandoning ship while many passengers and crew were still aboard. He faces 20 years in jail if convicted.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Domnica Cemortan faces reporters after testifying in a hearing in the trial of Captain Francesco Schettino in Grosseto, Italy, Tuesday.

GIACOMO APRILI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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Harper: Paying Duffy's legal fees was no big deal

It's not unusual. Yet Wallin, Brazeau say nobody offered to help them with their expenses

Stephen Harper answers a question in the House of Commons Tuesday. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stephen Harper sees nothing wrong with the Conservative party using taxpayer-subsidized funds to pay disgraced Sen. Mike Duffy's legal expenses, insisting Tuesday there's nothing unusual about it.

"The party regularly reimburses members of its caucus for valid legal expenses, as do other parties," Harper told the House of Commons.

However, it seems the Conservative party didn't extend its largesse to all other senators accused of improperly claiming travel expenses or housing allowances.

Sen. Patrick Brazeau's office said no offer was made to pay his legal expenses. Terrence O'Sullivan, Sen. Pamela Wallin's lawyer, said the same.

"Sen. Wallin has received no assistance with her legal fees … from the Conservative party or anyone associated with the Conservative party," O'Sullivan said in an email.

All three are under investigation by the RCMP and are facing a bid to suspend them from the Senate. The suspension motions were tied in procedural knots Tuesday, making it unlikely they will be voted on before the Conservatives gather Thursday evening for a two-day national convention in Calgary.

Duffy disclosed Monday there were two cheques regarding his allegedly improper expenses: one for $13,560 from Conservative party lawyer Arthur Hamilton to cover his legal expenses, plus the $90,000 from Harper's former chief of staff, Nigel Wright, to enable him to reimburse the Senate.

Harper was grilled repeatedly Tuesday about Duffy's latest bombshell, shrugging off suggestions that Hamilton did anything wrong.

"This individual is not accused of anything," he said in response to a question from NDP Leader Tom Mulcair, who asked whether the prime minister intends to fire Hamilton.

"New Democrats tell us that we should fire or expel people on the flimsiest of allegations without, in some cases, any proof of anything against anybody," Harper said.

"Then when we determine that actions should be taken (against the three senators), the leader of the Opposition stands up and pretends these people are somehow victims of arbitrary actions." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Coffee, tea, BTC?

What is being billed as the world's first Bitcoin ATM is seen at a coffee shop in downtown Vancouver. The machine, which was to be unveiled on Tuesday, will allow consumers to exchange cash for the digital currency known as Bitcoins, commonly abbreviated to BTC. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Staterooms. Canada using its foreign embassies for surveillance ops: Report

The national eavesdropping agency is refusing to comment on allegations that it mounts foreign operations through Canada's embassies abroad.

Lauri Sullivan, a spokeswoman for Communications Security Establishment Canada, says the agency does not comment "on our foreign intelligence collection activities or capabilities."

German magazine Der Spiegel says Canada is using diplomatic facilities to support surveillance operations in league with key allies the United States, Britain and Australia.

Word of the Canadian reference came as the NDP unsuccessfully sought support in the House of Commons to create a parliamentary committee that would look into stronger oversight for the intelligence community.

The magazine report published this week cites presentation slides leaked by Edward Snowden, a former contractor with the National Security Agency, CSEC's American counterpart.

One slide indicates the Canadian spy agency hosts "Staterooms" sites — a term for covert signals-intelligence gathering bases hidden in consulates and embassies.

"These sites are small in size and in number of personnel staffing them," says the slide. "They are covert, and their true mission is not known by the majority of the diplomatic staff at the facility where they are assigned."

Der Spiegel alleges that the U.S. NSA, Britain's Government Communications Headquarters and Australia's Defense Signals Directorate also host such covert stations, with equipment installed on rooftops or upper floors of embassy buildings — protected from view by screens or false structures.

It's just the latest of several references to the Ottawa-based spy service in Snowden's cache of leaked materials.

Earlier documents suggest Canada helped the United States and Britain spy on participants at the London G20 summit four years ago. More recently, Brazil demanded answers following accusations CSEC initiated a sophisticated spy operation against the South American country's ministry of mines and energy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

University of B.C.

RCMP suspect same man for 6 sex attacks

Another sex attack at the University of British Columbia has RCMP announcing they believe the same man is responsible for six attacks, three more than previously reported.

The most recent attack was reported to police on Sunday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto

Elderly couple die in apparent double suicide

An elderly couple in Toronto plunged to their deaths from the balcony of their apartment Tuesday morning in what police believe was a double suicide.

Emergency crews responded to a building at 7:54 a.m., where the man and woman were pronounced dead at the scene.

The coroner has been called in to probe circumstances surrounding their deaths, EMS confirmed.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Village leader Alexander Koropov points at rubble and garbage near a quarry close to Akhshtyr village in Sochi, Russia. The landfill outside Sochi, which will soon host the Olympics, is in the middle of a water protection zone where dumping industrial waste is forbidden DMITRY LOVETSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Illegal' landfill in Sochi violates zero-waste pledge

Winter Olympics. Environmentalists claim 'unauthorized' waste site could taint city's water supply

Trucks rumble to the edge of a gigantic pit filled with spray cans, tires and foam sheets and dump a stream of concrete slabs that send up a cloud of limestone dust. Other trucks pile clay on top and a bulldozer mixes everything together in a rudimentary effort to hide the mess. This landfill outside Sochi, which will host the Winter Olympics in 100 days, is smack in the middle of a water protection zone where dumping industrial waste is banned.

As a centrepiece of its Olympic bid, Russia trumpeted a "Zero Waste" program that promised the cleanest games ever, saying it would refrain from dumping construction waste and rely on reusable materials. But on a visit last week to Akhshtyr, just north of Sochi, The Associated Press found that Russia's state-owned rail monopoly is dumping tons of construction waste into what authorities call an illegal landfill, raising concerns of possible contamination in the water that directly supplies Sochi.

Protected area

"Water from here will be contaminating Sochi's fresh-water springs for the next 10 to 15 years."

Vladimir Kimaev, member of the Environmental Watch on North Caucasus

The finding shows how little Russia has done to fulfil its ambitious green pledges. Its $51-billion budget for the Olympics contains no provisions for treating construction waste.

In a letter obtained by the Associated Press, the Environmental Protection Agency in the area where Sochi is located told the resort's environment council in late August that it had inspected the Akhshtyr landfill and found "unauthorized dumping of construction waste as well as soil from excavation works." The agency said it fined Russian Railways, whose Sochi project costs billions of dollars, $3,000 for the dumping. It didn't order the dump closed.

The EPA's Sochi representative visited the site earlier this month and insisted it was being cleaned up, villagers and activists who were present at that meeting said. The agency was unavailable for comment this week.

The main health concern surrounding the landfill is to the water supply.

Authorities confirm that Russian Railways operates the Akhshtyr dump without a licence — but it wouldn't be able to obtain one even if it tried. That's because the village lies in an area where dumping construction waste and soil is forbidden under the Russian Water Code. Moisture seeps through porous rocks into underground springs that feed the nearby Mzymta River, which provides up to half the water supply in Sochi.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. intelligence chief backs spying on allies

The top U.S. intelligence director on Tuesday defended spying on foreign allies as necessary, and said such scrutiny of America's friends — and vice versa — is commonplace. Another official said the collection of phone records that prompted outrage across the Atlantic actually was conducted with the help of European governments.

Top intelligence officials testified that news reports that the National Security Agency had swept up millions of phone records in France, Spain and elsewhere were inaccurate and reflected a misunderstanding of "metadata" that was in fact collected by NATO allies and shared with the United States.

The nation's post-Sept. 11, 2001, surveillance programs are coming under increased criticism at home and abroad, capped by recent revelations that the NSA monitored German Chancellor Angela Merkel's cellphone and those of up to 34 other world leaders. Those reports relied on documents provided by former NSA analyst Edward Snowden.

President Barack Obama declined in an interview to say when he learned about the spying operations. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Congressional leaders who have been staunch supporters of the NSA programs are now saying it is time for a close examination. The White House said Tuesday that President Barack Obama had ordered a full review of the programs and was considering changes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spy games

National Intelligence director James Clapper played down European allies' complaints about spying on their leaders, saying the allies do it, too.

- He said during his 50 years working in intelligence it was "a basic tenet" to collect, whether by spying on communications or through other sources, confidential information about foreign leaders that reveals "if what they're saying gels with what's actually going on."
- Committee chairman Mike Rogers asked whether allies had conducted the same type of espionage against U.S. leaders. "Absolutely," Clapper responded.

Westgate Mall attack

Soldiers dismissed for stealing

Two Kenyan soldiers were sacked for stealing items during the deadly siege last month of Nairobi's Westgate Mall, Kenya's military chief said Tuesday.

Gen. Julius Karangi, chief of Kenya's military, identified the sacked soldiers as Victor Otieno and Victor Ashiundu and said they were in detention pending formal charges.

He said the two soldiers were found with mobile phones, cameras and chargers that were stolen from the mall during the siege.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saudi Arabia

Arrest underlines lack of freedom

A Saudi Arabian court sentenced a prominent lawyer to three months in prison on Tuesday, a rights group said, while the same day a Saudi writer was released from jail after being investigated for blasphemy.

The detentions point to what rights groups say is a pattern of violations for exercising freedom of speech. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Humiliating tales of 'shopping while black'

Retail discrimination. Several people, including Oprah and Obama, say they've been racially profiled in stores

The usual scenario involves suspicious glances, inattentive clerks or rude service — not handcuffs.

Yet when a black teen said he was wrongly jailed after buying a $350 belt at a Manhattan luxury store, it struck a nerve in African-Americans accustomed to finding that their money is not necessarily as good as everyone else's. Shopping while black, they say, can be a humiliating experience.

Much attention has been paid to the issue over the years — Oprah Winfrey complained that a Swiss clerk did not think she could afford a $38,000 handbag, and even President Barack Obama has said he was once followed in stores. But according to shoppers interviewed Monday, many people don't recognize how prevalent retail discrimination is, and how the consistent stream of small insults adds up to a large problem.

"It's one thing if you don't understand. But don't ever tell me it doesn't happen to me," said Natasha Eubanks, who shops often at high-end stores in New York City. "You can't assume it doesn't happen just because it doesn't happen to you."

Sometimes, Eubanks said, it takes clerks more than five minutes to simply acknowledge her presence. Or they brush her off after a token greeting. Or they ask her question after question: "You're a black girl up in Chanel. They want to know what you're doing here, and what you do for a living."

She says she has dealt with this type of treatment at least 20 times in New York City.

Trayon Christian's problem was not how he was treated when he went into Barneys New York — it was what happened afterward. In a lawsuit filed last week, the 19-year-old said that he bought a Ferragamo belt at the Manhattan store, and when he left he was accosted by undercover city police officers.

According to the lawsuit, police said Christian "could not afford to make such an expensive purchase." He was arrested and detained, though he showed police the receipt, the debit card he used and identification, the lawsuit said.

For Yvonne Chan, the reports were a painful reminder of when she worked in a liquor store in a predominantly white Massachusetts town. Every few months someone would be caught stealing, and about half the time it was a black person.

Chan, a graduate student, always tried to remind herself not to act on stereotypes, but, "Like it or not, I'm going to have a preconceived notion of races from my experiences. As much as I would like to force my brain not to think like that and put everyone on an even playing field, stereotypes play a role in our society ... we skew the view of people as individuals."

Those skewed views can affect who gets arrested for retail theft, said a business professor at Rutgers University who has studied marketplace discrimination. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"You're a black girl in Chanel. They want to know what you're doing here, and what you do for a living"

Natasha Eubanks, N.Y.C. shopper

Oprah Winfrey arrives at a film screening in Los Angeles. Winfrey says she faced racism in Switzerland when a clerk thought she couldn't afford a $38,000 bag. JASON MERRITT/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Purple Works
in Health Care
"I bring a positive attitude and a smile to work everyday. I encourage other members to make our facility a great place for the residents to live and for us to work."
SEIU WEST
In celebration of Health Care Providers' Week, SEIU-West recognizes the dedicated efforts of those who work hard each day to provide compassionate and safe health care to the residents of our communities.
PurpleWorks.ca

Trayvon Martin case

Mother of slain teen testifies against 'stand your ground'

The mother of a 17-year-old boy shot by a suspicious neighbour told a panel of U.S. senators Tuesday that state "stand your ground" self-defence laws do not work and must be amended, reviving the politically charged gun control issue a year ahead of the 2014 midterm elections. But little besides politics emerged from the session, held in the Senate's made-for-television hearing room. Democrats who hold majority power in the Senate and are trying to keep it supported the call by Sybrina Fulton, mother of Trayvon Martin. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sybrina Fulton testifies in front of U.S. Senators. MANUEL BALCE CENETA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rio de Janeiro

Water supply cut off due to maintenance

Taps were dry across a wide swath of Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday, some for nearly a week straight, prompting a flurry of criticism of the state water company and forcing some desperate residents of this Olympic city to fill plastic bottles with water from streams.

Rio's Cedae water utility cut off service to nearly a dozen Rio neighbourhoods Thursday as part of routine maintenance on a treatment plant on the Guandu River, the main water source for the city of 6 million.

The utility had said in a Thursday statement that it could take up to 72 hours for service to be restored. But long after that period passed, many parts of the city remained without water.

The debacle, less than a year ahead of the World Cup and 2 1/2 years before the city hosts the 2016 Olympic games, underscores its problems with basic services such as water and sewage treatment. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iran. Outcry after activist actress, 24, sentenced to 18 months in prison

An Iranian court has sentenced an actress known for her reformist political activism to 18 months in prison on security charges, newspapers reported Tuesday, in another sign of the underlying tensions between Iran's hard-liners and calls for greater openness by new President Hassan Rouhani.

The reports came a day after authorities ordered the closure of the pro-reform Bahar daily in connection to a commentary it published on the Prophet Muhammad, citing a law authorizing media closures over articles deemed to violate Islamic values or insult Islam.

Iran has shown some signs of easing political restrictions since the moderate-leaning Rouhani took office in August. Dozens of prisoners held on political charges have been freed, and a prominent artistic centre known as the House of Cinema has reopened.

But the case over the 24-year-old actress, Pegah Ahangarani, shows how centres of power in Iran often work at cross-purposes.

The judiciary is controlled by the country's ruling clerics, headed by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. He has given the green light so far to some of Rouhani's main international initiatives, such as outreach to Washington despite opposition from some hard-line groups. But Khamenei and his inner circle appear cautious on fast-paced domestic reforms that could further anger Rouhani's opponents.

Ahangarani, who has appeared in about 20 films, has been detained twice since the protests in 2009 over the disputed re-election of then President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, but she was released without publicly announced charges. Since 2011, she has been banned from travelling abroad.

The Chicago Film Festival is currently showing Ahangarani's latest film, "Darband," about a university female student who becomes the roommate of a young woman wrestling with financial problems.

In reaction to the verdict, many movie-lovers joined a cyber-campaign urging authorities to reconsider. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ouch! Banksy disses our architecture in rejected World Trade Center op-ed

Street-graffiti artist Banksy caused an uproar in the blogosphere on Monday when he wrote that the new World Trade Center is so bland, "it looks like something they would build in Canada."

He also shocked residents in New York by stating that the building is such a disaster that everyone who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001, could view this as a betrayal and an indication that "the terrorists won."

Banksy wrote the new World Trade Center is "like something they would build in Canada." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A posting on Banksy's website says the comments were contained in an op-ed piece he submitted to the New York Times and that the newspaper refused to print it.

Eileen Murphy, spokesperson for the New York Times, told the Metro newspaper in New York that "he did submit an op-ed and art. We couldn't agree on either the piece or the art, so we rejected it."

Murphy added, "What he has posted on his site is not exactly the same as what he submitted."

However, United Kingdom-based Banksy posted the piece on his website, imagining how it would look with a mockup of the New York Times's distinctive type and logo.

He titled his piece: "Shyscraper."

Banksy is currently in the midst of a high-profile "month in residence" series, creating an artwork each day throughout the streets of New York.

His 27th piece was, according to his website, "going to be an op-ed column."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Social media. Google Plus ups its game to lure users away from competition

Google is introducing more tools to automatically edit images posted on its Plus networking service in its latest attempt to lure traffic away from Facebook and other online hangouts.

Google Inc. has been developing ways to enable computers to understand which pictures and videos are likely to be most important to individual users. Most of the 18 new features announced Tuesday rely on that technology.

The new tools can also automatically touch up images or perform tricks such as erasing people from photos or creating animated GIFs — stringing together multiple images to make it seem like the subject of a picture is moving.

Google Inc. has been focusing on building better image-management tools because a growing number of people are posting videos and photos online on social networking services. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
95.51¢
(-0.23¢)

TSX
13,440.61 (+68.77)

OIL
$98.20 US (-48¢)

GOLD
$1,345.50 US (-$6.70)

Natural gas: $3.64 US (-2¢)
Dow Jones: 15,680.35 (+111.42)

Rumour has it Nordstrom will take over the Sears space in Toronto's Eaton Centre. The flagship is one of five department stores Sears is getting rid of amid turnaround efforts. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Struggling Sears shuts more stores

End of an era.
Department store is off-loading five outlets, including its flagship in Toronto's Eaton Centre

A new round of store closures by Sears Canada, which includes its flagship location in Toronto's Eaton Centre, has raised questions about the company's turnaround strategy and which American retailer will claim that coveted spot.

Sears said Tuesday it was selling the leases on five department stores, in a $400-million deal, which comes as the company pushes ahead with a broader effort to revamp its operations that will also see about 1,200 employees lose their jobs.

Let the guessing begin

"Nordstrom would be highly interested in (the Toronto Eaton Centre location)."

John Crombie, senior managing director of national retail services at Cushman and Wakefield, expects the U.S. high-end retailer will set up shop in downtown Toronto as it begins to enter the Canadian market.

The transactions amount to the biggest sale of leases since the company began to shed assets and cut jobs in an effort to revitalize its struggling operations amid intense competition.

Under the agreements, store leases for Sears locations at Sherway Gardens in Toronto, the Markville Shopping Centre in Markham, Ont., London-Masonville Place in London, Ont., and Richmond Centre in Richmond, B.C., will also be sold back to mall operator Cadillac Fairview and its partners.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Team USA's clothing made in the U.S. this time

Team USA will now wear the Made in the USA label. Every article of clothing made by Ralph Lauren for the U.S. Winter Olympic athletes in Sochi, including their opening- and closing-ceremony uniforms and their Olympic Village gear, has been made by domestic craftsman and manufacturers.

During the 2012 games in London, it was a flashpoint in the media and among Washington politicians that much of the U.S. apparel was made overseas, especially in China.

Ralph Lauren Corp., which has been making most of the athletes' clothes since 2008 when it took over from Canadian clothier Roots, got the message.

"We have worked incredibly hard as a company to go across America to find the best partners to help us produce the Olympic uniforms," said David Lauren, the company's executive vice-president of advertising, marketing and corporate communications.

They used more than 40 vendors, from ranchers in the rural West to yarn spinners in Pennsylvania to sewers in New York's Garment District for the closing-ceremony outfits unveiled Tuesday. The ensemble includes a navy peacoat with a red stripe, a classic ski sweater with a reindeer motif and a hand-sewn American flag, and a tasselled chunky-knit hat.

Moving production to the U.S. was difficult, as it was hard to come by facilities that could create the quantity and quality needed for the Olympic uniforms and the versions that will be sold to the public, Lauren said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Apple co-founder

Boyhood home of Steve Jobs now historic property

The Silicon Valley home where Apple co-founder Steve Jobs grew up and built some of his first computers is now on the city's list of historic properties.

The historical commission in Los Altos, Calif., voted unanimously for the historic designation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pink slips going to 300

BlackBerry moves ahead with job cuts

Another round of layoffs at BlackBerry's headquarters in Waterloo, Ont., will trim its staff by 300 employees, as part of a broader cost-cutting plan.

The smartphone maker said Tuesday the latest job cuts are included in an announcement from September when the company pledged to reduce its workforce by 40 per cent or about 4,500 people.

"We are in a period of transition and we must focus on enhancing our financial results to be in a better position to compete in this current mobile environment," company spokeswoman Rebecca Freiburger said in an email. "We recognize our local employees' hard work on behalf of our company and the difficulty of this news."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Smells like trouble

City not so hot on Sriracha sauce, sues maker

The maker of Sriracha hot sauce is under fire for allegedly fouling the air around its Southern California factory.

The city of Irwindale filed a lawsuit Monday asking a judge to stop production at the Huy Fong Foods factory, claiming the chili odour emanating from the plant is a public nuisance.

City officials say residents have been complaining of burning eyes, irritated throats and headaches and that some people have had to leave their house to escape the smell. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU THINK

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Gather round, children and I will tell you a very scary story.

Come closer to the fire — it is cold and dark all around us and these … revelations … will make your skin crawl.

A new poll from Insights West shows that British Columbians are haunted by ghosts and spirits.

Sixty per cent believe in the afterlife and 48 per cent believe in ghosts. And if that's not spooky enough, 54 per cent believe in angels while 37 per cent believe in the devil.

Nearly 20 per cent claim to have been haunted. And we're not talking about what they did at last night's Halloween party.

If you think British Columbians are just whacked out on B.C. bud, that could be. But this poll is not so different from other surveys, including a recent one by the Huffington Post in which 64 per cent believed in the afterlife and 45 per cent in ghosts. A just-published U.K. survey found that an even higher number of Brits, 52 per cent of those polled, believe in ghosts. That could be explained by the fact that the poll was taken by the "Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena (ASSAP)." ASSAP president Lionel Fanthorpe believes that King Arthur was an alien who came to Earth to save us from other alien invaders.

Monty Python lives.

Despite the overwhelming evidence, I'm having trouble convincing myself that every second person reading this column really believes in ghosts. Not to mention the 60-plus per cent who believe in angels, or the one in four who dance with the devil.

Of course, there is not a single shred of scientific evidence supporting these beliefs. The Higgs boson, that elusive elementary particle, may have been an article of faith among physicists for more than a century. But now that there's data confirming its existence, we can believe in it. The jury is still (and always will be) out on the ghost of Uncle Harry.

Apparently, we haven't advanced much beyond the Dark Ages when everyone was addled by spirits and ghosts, angels and devils. In fact, you could make a convincing argument that at least half of us are still comfortably ensconced in the sixth century. Well, maybe not so comfortable. The castle is drafty and this wool jerkin itches like the, um, devil.

All this mumbo jumbo persists despite modern detecting equipment that can listen to the background hum of the big bang, find a galaxy more than 13 billion light years away, and track the path of an electron. There's nothing there, people. No ghosts, no angels, no alien Arthurians.

Of course, nothing I say will make any difference. People are more likely to believe in Beelzebub than in common sense. Common sense is no fun.

But I'll tell you one little secret, children. Trolls are real. Just check out the comment trail on this column in a couple of days if you don't believe me. Bwa-ha-ha.

ZOOM

Superstorm Sandy, 1 year later

MARK LENNIHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

N.Y. marks triumph over damage done

Tom Hammill places an American flag at a building site in the Breezy Point neighbourhood in the Queens borough of New York on Tuesday, a year after Superstorm Sandy struck. A firestorm spread across the beachfront neighbourhood during the storm, burning more than 100 homes, including Hammill's. Behind him are homes that are being rebuilt.

To mark Tuesday's anniversary, residents of coastal neighbourhoods in New York and New Jersey that suffered some of the worst flooding are honouring that terrible day in ways both public and private.

On Staten Island, residents will light candles by the stretch of waterfront closest to their homes at 7:45 p.m. in a "Light the Shore" vigil. Along the Jersey Shore, people plan to shine flashlights in a symbolic triumph over the darkness that Sandy brought.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

One of the worst storms

- The storm was blamed for at least 181 deaths in the U.S. — including 68 in New York and 71 in New Jersey.
- In New York City the storm surge hit nearly 14 feet, swamping the city's subway.

Clickbait

HANNAH ZITNER
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JOANNA BOURNE/FLICKR

Braingasm, despite the obnoxious nickname, is not the latest sex toy or coital craze, but a real* phenomenon taking over YouTube channels, sub-Reddits and radio stations across the web. Despite relatively few people actually having Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response, the sound-induced tingles that start in your head and slither down your spine, ASMR has made its mark online. For those who don't have it — and if you have to wonder, you don't — watching videos of pretty girls whisper as they caress hair brush bristles might make you feel like a creep. But, hey, at least now you'll know what everyone's talking about.

*Debatable. Science is still trying to figure it all out

GentleWhispering:
While not necessarily the Original Gangsta of ASMR, GentleWhispering is one of the most prolific. The blond, Eastern European whisperer has racked up more than 3.5 million views on one video alone.

Reddit:
r/ASMR is a safe for work hub of ASMR videos and discussion.

Note, redditors are not to post ASMR-like videos, so keep the music videos, Songza playlists (yes, there is an ASMR Songza list, which does not impress the ASMR purists) and the like off the boards.

Asmr.fm:
Community of ASMRers and ASMR'tists to share a wide range (hint, hint) of ASMR videos.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: A cellphone stopped a bullet that was fired at a store clerk. What do you wish your smartphone could save you from?

@MLHS_Mike: crippling self doubt? I think the new iOS update has something for that.

@Canucklehead_ca: Duck-face selfies. *sigh*

@Dennis2ride: our politicians

@Dennis2ride: MY BILLS

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: Send us your comments: saskatoonletters@metronews.ca

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In Focus

McAdams' career in a temporal loop

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

When British author H.G. Wells created the term "time machine" way back in 1895, he could never have imagined the lasting impact his ideas of fourth dimension travel would have on the career of Rachel McAdams.

His book, The Time Machine, has been filmed twice for the big screen, but the ideas of shifting ripples of time have also inspired three very different movies starring the London, Ont., born actress.

This weekend she co-stars with Domhnall Gleeson and Bill Nighy in About Time as the present day girlfriend of a 21-year-old who uses his ability to switch time zones to learn information to woo her.

"I know I have a little bit of time travel in my past but this is different," McAdams says. "The element of time travel thrown in was unique and quirky and dealt with lightly."

Previously the Mean Girls star appeared as Clare Abshire in The Time Traveler's Wife, starring opposite Eric Bana playing a Chicago librarian with a genetic disorder known as Chrono-Displacement that causes him to involuntarily travel through time.

Rachel McAdams has a history around time machines. CONTRIBUTED

From the outset their relationship is a strange one. When they first meet she has known him since she was six years old, but because his syndrome flips him to random times in his life on an ever shifting timeline he is always meeting her for the first time. Confused? Not as confused as Clare, who tries to build a life with Henry even though his ailment keeps them apart.

Based on a best-selling novel, it's a three-hankie story about love with no boundaries and how romance can transcend everything, even death.

In Woody Allen's Midnight in Paris it's Owen Wilson who jumps through time — finding himself transported back to 1920s Paris and hanging with F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald (Tom Hiddleston and Alison Pill), seeing Cole Porter sing at a party, drinking with Hemmingway — while McAdams stays put, bringing him back to reality, as his irritating present-day fiancée Inez.

But what about actual time travel? When she was asked by AOL if there was anything she would go back in time and change in real life, McAdams said, "I was a figure skater, so I would take back a lot of fashion choices on the ice. A lot of sequins. I would pull back on the sequins a little bit and maybe less blue eye shadow."

Arcade Fire's Haiti-inspired fourth album their most ambitious to date

New music. The highly anticipated disc from the musical innovators doesn't disappoint as the quality is only matched by the ambition of the effort

William Butler and Arcade Fire's new album Reflektor was recently released. ERIC KANYE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It was spring 2011 when Arcade Fire — months from a stunning Grammy Award win for album of the year, which pretty much certified the Montreal band had climbed to the highest of rock's craggy peaks — went down to Haiti and got upstaged.

They were in Cange, a lush remote village positioned on the edge of Lake Peligre. They were there primarily to visit sites where Partners in Health was working to help in the aftermath of 2010's catastrophic earthquake. But they also played a couple shows — mostly tossing off cover songs — as an opener for the rasin (Haitian roots music) band Ram.

And those spirited gigs had a profound effect.

"We played and it was really fun," multi-instrumentalist Will Butler recalls in a recent telephone interview. "And then Ram came out and played and everyone came out and danced and it was this massive party. And it was out of control and amazing — not like, out of control like someone on coke was stabbing someone in the eye with a pen or anything. But out of control like six-year-olds and 95-year-olds were dancing and old ladies on crutches and stuff.

"It was just a real town-wide celebration. And we were like, 'Oh, it would be nice to be able to go to rural Haiti and play a show that people would really dance to.'

"That definitely set a challenge for us, which we took up on some of the songs," he added. "I want to be able to play this for a roomful of strangers in a different country, who have never heard Arcade Fire, and just have them dance to it."

And so the seeds were planted for Reflektor, the indie innovators' rather transformative, sprawling fourth disc that hit stores yesterday.

In particular, the trip triggered an interest in exploring traditional Haitian rhythms. They listened closely to a range of their rhythms, tasking the drummers with weaving their styles with the propulsive percussion work of New Order's Age of Consent, for instance, or analyzing the different way fills are dispensed. They made loops of those sessions, some of which wound up on Reflektor, some of which only served as "inspiration for further experimentation."

The unconventional rhythmic heartbeat of the record is the first thing that stands out — watch how the syncopated reggae strut of Flashbulb Eyes segues into Here Comes the Night Time, a thrilling mix of breakneck Haitian pounding and an easy tropical amble.

The scope of what they tried to tackle on Reflektor is hardly surprising — outsized ambition might have always been Arcade Fire's distinguishing quality.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reflektor

On the double-disc Reflektor, only four of 13 songs clock in under five minutes, with many stretching far beyond.

- **What to expect.** The first disc is giddily accessible at times, featuring several songs — distorted thrasher Normal Person, sun-drenched groover You Already Know and the stinging gallop Joan of Arc — Will Butler points out might have fit in on any of the band's records.

SCENE

The Word

Not a movie: Mr. and Mrs. Smith at war once again

Rumours of marital trouble for Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith are cropping up again, with sources telling Radar Online that the stars are living separate lives — and haven't appeared in public together since August.

Smith has been in New Orleans for work since mid-September and is expected to be there through next month, while Pinkett Smith has reportedly moved out of the family's home and is living with her brother, Caleb, in Calabasas, California.

Pinkett Smith seemed to be venting a bit at a recent charity event in Baltimore, telling the audience, "When you are going through a storm with your spouse … stop thinking about what you 'believe' a husband or wife should be," according to an attendee.

"I thought success would make me happy. It does not."

When asked about the rumored trouble, Will's mother, Carolyn Smith, told the website, "Isn't that personal? Thank you for your concern."

Quote

"I thought success would make me happy. It does not."

Jada Pinkett Smith.
Talking about her marriage and her life

Brown catches a courtroom break

Chris Brown.

Chris Brown got at least a little good news during his most recent courtroom visit, as a Washington, D.C., judge reduced the felony assault charge against the singer for allegedly punching a man outside a hotel this weekend to a misdemeanor, according to TMZ. Brown was released from custody and is scheduled to return for a hearing on Nov. 25.

Derek Hough defends his sister

Derek Hough.

Dancing with the Stars regular Derek Hough is sticking up for his younger sister, Julianne Hough, after her eyebrow-raising decision to don blackface for Halloween, saying she is "mortified" at the backlash.

"She's so apologetic," he tells E! News. "She is just beside herself. Obviously it wasn't her brightest moment in her life, but hopefully we can move on."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Jonas Brothers. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

The Jonas Brothers confirm break-up rumours

The Jonas Brothers have officially broken up — as a band, not a family — just three weeks after canceling their fall tour due to "a deep rift within the band," the guys announced this week.

"It's over for now," says oldest brother Kevin.

Youngest brother Nick apparently voiced some concerns about the group's future, prompting the discussion that led to the break-up.

"I was feeling kind of trapped," he tells People magazine. "I needed to share my heart with my brothers."

But middle brother Joe says Nick wasn't alone in those feelings.

"It was a unanimous decision."

Getting out

"I was feeling kind of trapped. I needed to share my heart with my brothers."

Nick Jonas
Talking about the band's break-up

Twitter

@JuddApatow
I love that a lot of people are listening to Lou Reed today and it is blowing theirs minds. Remember music? Remember when it did that?

@Pink
If any of u have more experience on a bike than my husband, then I will listen to your opinions on how he should take my daughter for a ride. I can't promise I will care, but I will listen none the less.

@realjeffreyross
On Halloween morning I will host a seance on The View. Which dearly departed historical figures should I try and communicate with?

Magens Bay is one of the top beaches in the Caribbean, with beautiful sand and a protected swimming area. Nice bar, too. ALL PHOTOS: JIM BYERS/METRO

Wanna soak up the sun?

Paradise. St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands isn't too popular with Canucks — but with its offerings, it should be

JIM BYERS
@jimbyerstravel
jimbyerstravel.com

This part of the Caribbean doesn't get much attention from Canadians. But it's a fabulous destination with great holiday options.

Doing

You can reach gorgeous Magens Bay beach in less than 10 minutes from the cruise harbour. It's a long stretch nestled at the end of a deep, protected cove. Great for swimming and decent for snorkelling. Charlotte Amalie is a wild shopping town for duty free goods, with peddlers out front of jewelry shops and rum bars jostling for sun-baked tourists. Some shops allow you to bargain. Pretty shops like Laksa sell hand-made jewellery in shops along the cool alleyways in town; much more fun than the joints on Main St.

The views of Charlotte Amalie and the main harbour of St. Thomas are lovely from the Blackbeard's Castle complex.

Tour the hillside Blackbeard's Castle complex, which features gardens and a small fort-like building called the Sky Tower that dates to 1679. Haagensen House is not only a beauty to tour but is home to a few prints of impressionist master Camille Pisarro, who was born and raised here. Coral World features aquariums, a touch pond where kids can feel a starfish and a snuba service, where you can swim underwater for long periods with a breathing tube attached to an air tank on the surface; like scuba without the tank on your back.

Gladys Café is a fun spot in Charlotte Amalie with great local dishes and an array of jet fuel hot sauces for sale.

Sleeping

Blackbeards Castle is a comfortable, low-key spot with great views of Charlotte Amalie's harbour and its multitude of islands. Rooms go from as little as $98 a night, including a continental breakfast, free Wi-Fi and free tours of the Blackbeards Castle complex. All rooms have refrigerators and there's a pool on-site. The nearby Hotel 1829 is fun and a little closer to town but is currently undergoing renovations. Want something a bit more upscale? There's a lovely Ritz Carlton on a 30-acre piece of property in the east end, near the cruise terminal for trips to fabulous St. John. Rooms in November recently listed from $459 a night.

Dining

Just off Main Street, also known as Dronnigens Gade from the days when this was Danish territory, you'll find the superb Gladys Café. Brilliantly coloured local artwork rests on exposed stone walls of a 300-year-old building. The fresh passion fruit juice is amazing and they also serve jerked fish and fine curries. Sample one of the homemade hot sauces and buy a bottle to bring home. The restaurant A Room With a View is in the pretty Bluebeard's Castle hotel complex (so many pirates, so many castles) high on a hill, offering great food and a romantic setting with awesome harbour views.

Drinking

Sure, you can step off your boat and head to Senor Frogs with everyone else, but you really should try something with a bit more colour. Iggies is a funky bar/restaurant right on the beach at Bolongo Bay with a casual vibe. Touristy, but not nearly as bad as the places near the cruise ships. Even prettier is the outdoor bar at Magens Bay Beach, where you can buy rum drinks for a song and watch the young folks on the beach. Or catch the iguanas sunning themselves on the terrace.

Online

- **Visit.** visitusvi.com for more information.

On a roll! Tortilla Bites make you the host with the most, sans effort

ROSE REISMAN
For more, visit rosereisman.com or follow her on twitter @rosereisman

Use fresh, different colour large tortillas for this recipe.

If you can only find thin asparagus than use 12 not six.

Want to make these in advance? Roast the asparagus and immediately chill to stop the cooking process. They can be prepared up to a day ahead if wrapped well in plastic wrap and chilled. They're great for a large group of people.

Ingredients

- 6 medium-thick spears of asparagus
- 1/2 cup light (5%) ricotta cheese
- 1/4 cup softened light (25% reduced) cream cheese
- 1 tbsp light mayonnaise
- 2 tbsp chopped green onions
- 2 tbsp fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 tsp minced garlic
- pinch of salt and pepper
- 3 large flour tortillas
- 1 cup baby spinach leaves
- 3 oz sliced smoked salmon

1. Preheat the oven to 425 F (220 C). Place the asparagus on a baking sheet sprayed with vegetable oil. Bake for 8 minutes or just until bright green.

2. In a food processor, or in a bowl using an electric mixer, beat the ricotta, cream cheese, mayonnaise, green onions, lemon juice, garlic, and salt and pepper until smooth.

3. Spread cheese mixture evenly over the tortillas. Scatter the spinach leaves overtop. Place the smoked salmon on top of the spinach. Place 2 spears of the asparagus near the bottom of each tortilla. Roll up tightly, wrap in plastic wrap, and chill.

4. Cut each tortilla on the diagonal into 6 pieces.

Smoked Salmon and Roasted Asparagus Tortilla Bites

This recipe makes 18 servings. ROSE REISMAN

Drink of the Week

Avocado Mezcal Cocktail

- 1 avocado from Mexico, halved, pitted and peeled
- 6 oz (175 ml) white mezcal
- 6 oz (175 ml) lime juice
- 4 oz (125 ml) light agave nectar
- 3 oz (90 ml) Midori
- 2 oz (60 ml) Cointrea
- 2 cups (500 ml) ice
- Garnish: Junior Merino's Cactus & Lemongrass Rimmer and avocado wedges

In a blender, combine all ingredients, except ice. Whirl until combined. Add 2 cups (500 ml) of ice and blend until smooth.

Serve in a glass rimmed with Junior Merino's Cactus & Lemongrass Rimmer.

Garnish with avocado wedge pressed in Junior Merino's Hibiscus Rose Rimmer. COURTESY OF MISSAVACADO.CA

Barley alle vongole? Grain replaces spaghetti in this dish

This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1. In a small saucepan over medium heat, combine the bread crumbs and 1 teaspoon of the oil. Cook, stirring constantly, until golden brown, about 2 to 3 minutes. Set aside to cool.

2. Meanwhile, in a large saucepan or Dutch oven over medium, heat the remaining 2 tablespoons of oil. Add the onion and fennel, reduce the heat to medium-low and cook, stirring occasionally, until softened, about 5 minutes. Add the garlic and red pepper flakes and cook, stirring, for 1 minute.

3. Add the wine, tomatoes and clams, cover tightly and increase heat to high. Cook for 5 to 7 minutes, checking now and again and transferring the clams as they open to a bowl. Discard any clams that don't open.

4. Add the barley to the clam liquid left in the saucepan and heat over medium, stirring, for 3 minutes. Return the clams to the pan and cook, stirring, until they are heated through. Ladle the mixture into 4 pasta or soup bowls and top each portion with a quarter of the sautéed bread crumbs and parsley.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 3 tbsp dry bread crumbs, preferably Italian-style
- 2 tbsp plus 1 tsp extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- 1 cup finely chopped yellow onion
- 1 1/2 cups medium chopped fresh fennel
- 1 tbsp minced garlic
- 1 tsp red pepper flakes
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 1 1/2 cups cherry tomatoes
- 3 dozen littleneck clams, scrubbed well
- 3 cups cooked pearl barley
- 1/3 cup chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley

Dinner. Spicy Shrimp and Haddock Stew

1. In saucepan over medium-high, heat the olive oil. Add potatoes, onion, garlic, thyme, paprika, red pepper flakes and fennel seeds. Cook, stirring often, until onion is softened, 5 minutes.

2. Add celery, tomatoes (and any juice in can), clam juice and water. Bring to simmer, reduce heat to low and cook 30 minutes, or until the potatoes are tender.

3. Add shrimp and haddock, and increase heat slightly to maintain a simmer. Cook 5 minutes, or just until shrimp are pink and haddock flakes easily. Stir in parsley, dill and lemon juice, season with salt and pepper. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 russet potatoes, diced
- 1 large yellow onion, diced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp dried thyme
- 1/2 tsp smoked paprika
- 1/4 tsp each red pepper flakes and fennel seeds, lightly crushed
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 15-oz can diced tomatoes
- 8-oz bottle clam juice
- 2 cups water
- 1 lb raw, shelled extra-large shrimp
- 1 lb haddock, cut in chunks
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 1 tbsp chopped fresh dill
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- Salt and ground black pepper

Of perks and petroleum: an industry that brings you a barrel of options

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While there's no one particular set of skills that ensure success in the oil and gas industry, some commonly valued attributes include a good work ethic, positive attitude, teamwork-oriented disposition, a desire to learn and grow, and a high level of adaptability. ISTOCK

Variety is one of the most remarkable qualities offered by careers choices in the oil and gas industry.

There's something for everyone, whether you're beginning your first career or starting a new one. With opportunities for work indoors and outdoors, physical and creative tasks, and even detailed or big-picture work, the oil and gas industry can accommodate every disposition and personality.

Besides variety, there's also opportunity. Petroleum products play a central part in the average person's daily life, which means strong and steady growth in the oil and gas industry is a sure thing.

A little research into the oil and gas industry confirms that the people are what make it all possible.

The big picture

Many roles in the oilsands workforce involve work in the field.

According to the latest report by the Petroleum Human Resources Council, one of the most in-demand positions in the oil and gas industry over the next decade will be the power engineer role, responsible for the safe and efficient operation and maintenance of industrial equipment of in-situ and upgrading operations.

Positions for heavy equipment operators and heavy-duty equipment mechanics (who maintain and repair engines and engine support systems) will also be quite popular.

If you're interested in work that is tangible, applied and hands-on, these positions are a great avenue to consider, as you'll be well-positioned to fulfill a key support role in keeping the oil and gas industry up to speed.

However, it's a common misconception that a career in the oil and gas industry means only one kind of work.

More than one kind of job

The Petroleum Human Resources Council report indicates that the oil and gas industry is on track for steady and significant growth in the next decade and will need more than 30,000 new employees.

This future growth potential creates a field of opportunity for professional roles that you might have overlooked!

While many of these roles are for skilled trades and technical roles one might typically associate with the oil and gas industry, it's important to recognize that work in this field includes opportunities for a diverse range of skillsets.

For example, the report found that there will be significant growth in opportunity for employees in human resources, a field which makes up roughly 15 per cent of the oil sands workforce.

There will also be opportunities for diverse number of careers, like environmental technicians and inspectors, public relations and communications, and supply chain roles in shipping, receiving, management, purchasing and inventory and more.

These fields not only offer different kinds of working environments and responsibilities, they also accommodate different educational backgrounds, which means that finding the right oil and gas career has never been easier.

Though much oil and gas industry growth will take place in the western provinces, there are also opportunities for careers in oil and gas in Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Manitoba and Quebec.

This is great news if you're apprehensive about relocation.

A real lifestyle

The oil and gas industry also accommodates a variety of lifestyles. While many positions involve working outdoors, that doesn't mean you'll be leaving all indoor comforts behind. When oil and gas extraction sites are found in remote areas, most workers reside in camps set apart from work locations. A number of these offer gym amenities, coffee shops, satellite television and internet.

Some positions require workers to fly in and out of work sites by helicopter, meaning that your commute to work will always be exciting!

Other work sites are a brief commute from nearby towns and cities, where industry workers have access to shopping centres, entertainment and thriving nightlife.

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Safety drill

It's important to recognize that safety is a key value in the oil and gas industry

- With so many people working in hands-on roles, it's imperative that employers in oil and gas go above and beyond the norm to achieve the highest safety standards.
- Canada's oil and gas industry has an excellent safety reputation worldwide – one backed by a proven track record of excellence ensuring a safe workplace.
- A 2011 study conducted by Work Safe Alberta found that the oil and gas industry has the fewest lost-time claim and injury rates when compared to other labour-intensive fields like construction and transportation.

Studying in one fell swoop?

Are you giving the books your best? Expert advice on how to make a successful go of your study time

BRUCE
WALSH
Metro World News

Developmental psychologist Donald J. Foss has been studying the mental gymnastics of learning comprehension for more than three decades. His latest book — Your Complete Guide to College Success: How to Study Smart, Achieve Your Goals, and Enjoy Campus Life — is an attempt to put accepted psychological research on learning into plain language for every post-secondary student. We asked him for his insight on learning styles, study habits and slogging through obstacles.

What's the biggest misconception students have about studying?

If there's one thing we know about studying, it's that comprehension increases when you break it up over a long period of time. The best way to retain information is to study

Was cramming for this exam the best way to go? ISTOCK

in small chunks, interwoven with other tasks. Yet, students are usually resistant to that idea. They don't like continually warming up to the topic. Most people would rather learn in one long sitting.

When it comes to studying, are there different learning styles?

Yes. But I think that's overemphasized. You hear a lot students say, 'The material isn't being presented in my learning style.' And that may be true, but that's not a very good predictor of how students do in any given class. It's pretty clear there are some best practices that seem to work for just about every style of learning.

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First Student

Red Sox designated hitter David Ortiz warms up during practice at Fenway Park on Tuesday. Ortiz is posting historic numbers with Boston one win away from clinching a championship. JARED WICKERHAM/GETTY IMAGES

MLB's biggest stage belongs to Big Papi

Hot bat. Red Sox's Ortiz enters Game 6 hitting .773, on the brink of clinching World Series title

The banner hangs from a light pole on the sidewalk outside Fenway Park.

It's a profile of David Ortiz with that infectious smile and the words "OCTOBER BASEBALL" beneath it.

He is, literally, the face of the Red Sox franchise.

This is, once again, his time of year.

"I don't think you could ever ask for more out of an individual than what he does on and off the field," Boston ace Jon Lester said. "The guy's got a heart of gold."

And a bat that keeps smacking balls past fielders and over fences.

One win from his third championship in 10 years, Ortiz will take a .733 World Series batting average into Game 6 on Wednesday night against the St. Louis Cardinals. Only Billy Hatcher did better in a single series, .750 in 1990 for the Cincinnati Reds when they swept the Oakland Athletics.

But such World Series displays are nothing new to the only player left from the team that won the Red Sox their first championship in 86 years.

St. Louis saw that on Ortiz's first at-bat of the 2004 Series when he hit a three-run homer in Boston's 11-9 win. He batted .308 in a four-game sweep.

The Colorado Rockies saw it in 2007 when he went 3 for 5 in a 13-1 rout in Game 1. That time, he hit .333 in another sweep.

Now, he enters the potential clincher with 11 hits in 15 at-bats in this Series. He has two homers, two doubles, six RBIs, five runs and four walks.

Ortiz has one-third of Boston's hits against St. Louis, while the rest of the Red Sox are batting .151.

"I was born for this," he said. "We've got the best baseball fans and we enjoy this. Hopefully, this will get over tomorrow and they'll get to enjoy it like they always do. Party time."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Penn State scandal

Paterno family seeks reversal of NCAA sanctions

A hearing on a lawsuit filed by the family of longtime Penn State football coach Joe Paterno began Tuesday as his relatives seek to reverse the NCAA's penalties against the school over the Jerry Sandusky child sex abuse scandal.

The Paterno family contends the NCAA violated its own rules in imposing the sanctions, which resulted in, among other things, Paterno no longer being officially recognized as the Division I coach with the most wins, at 409.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Heat rise past Rose's Bulls on ring night

They got their rings before the game, then a challenge as it was winding down.

The Miami Heat responded to both.

Shane Battier went 4 for 4 from three-point range, including a critical one from the right corner with 1:33 remaining, and the Heat wasted most of what was a 25-point lead before holding off Derrick Rose and the Chicago Bulls 107-95 on Tuesday night in the season-opener for both teams.

LeBron James scored 17 points for Miami, which got its 2013 NBA championship rings in a pre-game ceremony. The Heat trailed 9-2 early, then outscored Chicago 52-24 over the remainder of the first half.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadiens dim Stars for 3rd win in 4 games

The Canadiens' Alex Galchenyuk gets off a shot on net against Stars goalie Kari Lehtonen on Tuesday night in Montreal. RICHARD WOLOWICZ/GETTY IMAGES

Rene Bourque scored in the second period and Carey Price made 26 saves as the Montreal Canadiens downed the Dallas Stars 2-1 on Tuesday night.

Michael Bournival also scored for Montreal (8-5-0), which has won three of its last four games.

Cody Eakin replied for Dallas (5-6-1), which remained last in the Central Division.

Dallas outshot the Canadiens 27-24.

Both teams had played the night before, with Montreal winning 2-0 in New York and the Stars taking a 4-3 decision in coach Lindy Ruff's return to Buffalo. Neither side had a lot of energy.

On Tuesday

Canadiens	Stars
2	1

The Canadiens struck first as Raphael Diaz lofted a wrist shot from the point to the far post that Bournival tipped off defenceman Stephane Robidas and past Kari Lehtonen at 12:02 of the first. The rookie Bournival has three goals and four assists in his last seven games.

Bourque put in a Diaz rebound 12:55 into the middle frame.

Dallas struck back when Eakin used P.K. Subban as a screen and fooled Price with a medium-speed wrist shot from outside the circles at 17:27. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Even life in the eco-fast lane can lead to an auto rebound

More drivers on the road. Congestion and fuel costs might slow things down a bit, but Canadians are still driving more

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

In the year 2025, cars are legislated to be more than 35 percent fuel efficient than they are today. ISTOCK

For hockey goalies and their defensemen, controlling rebounds can be the difference between registering a shut out and being on the ugly end of a blow out.

Controlling rebounds is also part of the automotive environmental game, because every time there is an advance in this area there is a "rebound effect" to consider.

Basically it's a case of, if the technology makes driving cheaper and/or less of a guilt trip, then drivers will drive more.

It's a conundrum we've faced many times. Calorie-reduced or fat-reduced snack-food is a prime example. What we lose in calories per serving, we make up for in the number of servings. Just for the record, it says on my tube of "reduced fat" Pringles that 28 grams, or approximately 16 chips, is a "serving." I don't think so.

The automotive rebound is going to be particularly interesting to watch, because the reduced fuel costs and emissions come at virtually no expense to the driving experience. In fact, vehicles are getting more awesome. I could go on indefinitely about all the cool cars and features available today, but really just need to point out two items — heated steering wheel, heated and cooled driver's seat — because once your extremities are happy, your mood automatically follows.

We already don't need an excuse to drive more. More people have more places to go and more places to see. And more people want to own and drive vehicles. No surprise if I tell you there is more driving being done every year. A Statistics Canada survey estimated that, during 2009, Canadians drove their cars and light-duty trucks for a combined 293,298.8 million kilometres! In 2005, the number was 277,660.4 million. StatsCan doesn't do the survey any more, but I'm sure the numbers for 2013 would be up and alarming.

And one wonders how much driving we'll be doing in the year 2025, when cars are legislated to be more than 35 per cent fuel efficient than they are today? In 2010 the sales-weighted fuel economy average of new passenger cars was 7.9 L/100 km. According to Environment Canada, the emission regulations will push that weighted average to 6.0 L/100 km in 2020, and to 5.0 L/100 km by 2025.

Congestion and increasing vehicle ownership and fuel costs might slow things down a bit, but I think we'll always be driving if we can — and they'll be more of us.

People are working on the congestion and ownership issues (smart grids, car sharing, self-parking, etc.), so if they net some gains and make everything nice, they will have their own "rebound effects" to add to the pile. Yeah, more vehicles built, fueled, driven, etc.

Until then, there's only one thing to do about rebounds — cover your man, keep your stick on the ice.

Nissan asks: What do women really want?

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

Research

- Nissan found that only 10 per cent of women would consider buying a pink car.

Nissan used input from female customers to help design its new pathfinder. CONTRIBUTED: NISSAN CANADA

Back in 1955, Dodge introduced a new model called La Femme. Aimed at women, it was painted in pastel colours, and included a matching raincoat and umbrella.

It failed, proving that it takes more than just a few "feminine touches" to appeal to female buyers. But while automakers generally know what won't work, it's an ongoing challenge to determine what does.

"I think women are misunderstood, and it's because the industry assumes they're disinterested in cars, and find them boring and one-dimensional," says Rachel Nguyen, director of exploratory and advanced product planning for Nissan's head office in Los Angeles. "Instead, they see it in their lives, and if they will enjoy being in it.

"When women walk into a dealership, they don't say, 'Wow, look at that new grille, it's so great compared to the last generation.' They look at the whole thing, and it's more than just the product."

Nguyen works with teams of designers, engineers and planners to identify major trends and customer needs, and also with consumers. While discussion groups are important, the company also uses immersion research that can include going into people's homes. "We're looking for insights," she says. "It's not typical market research. Immersing in these women's lives is where we gain our insight and tells us what we need to do."

This research has led Nissan to incorporate such things as lighting and materials to improve the vehicle cabin's appearance, along with practicality. On three-row SUVs, the second-row seat slides forward in such a way that if it has a car seat on it, it's still easy to get into the third row. "We said, let's finally get it right where I don't have to move my kid out of the car seat to get my other kid into the back seat," Nguyen says. "We put our foot down, and put a push on engineering for that."

Women also want technology as much as men do, but it needs to be intuitive and easy to use. The company is continually working on designs that take the enormous amount of information available, and present it in formats that are accessible, affordable, and also minimize distraction. "It's the kiss of death to say that you're designing for women," she says. "If you meet their needs, you will capture the needs of everyone."

A peek inside the Big Dog Garage

Autoknow. Jay Leno's collection of 130 cars is no museum — they're all licensed, insured and ready to drive

GARRY SOWERBY
wheelbasemedia.com

Even though my wife Lisa and I are in a sleek Cadillac CTS Sport Wagon, it feels a bit like a police stakeout parked on a side street in southern California's urban sprawl.

There is nervousness in the pit of my stomach as I fiddle through the XM satellite radio stations, oblivious to the music filling the comfortable leather-appointed interior.

"Another 14 minutes and we can go in," I tell Lisa, who has been checking the chin size on every driver of every car that goes by.

My apprehension is understandable since we are holed up around the corner from Jay Leno's Big Dog Garage, a sprawling, gated compound where the iconic comedian/late-night talk-show host parks, rebuilds and finesses his collection of 130 cars and more than 100 motorcycles. I consider my fleet of 10 cars and trucks back home and wonder what Jay would think of my 1991 Pontiac Firefly.

Our appointment at the compound is with Bob. Although we've been playing phone tag with Jay's public-relations manager for a couple of days, I still don't have a clear-cut answer if we were actually going to meet Jay.

But at least Bob is at the gate, and he informs us we can take only one picture during the visit and one of us has to be in it. Talk about having just one shot. So much for the big photo spread I had been counting on to accompany these words.

Bob, a friendly, elderly Californian, has been working with Leno's car collection for more than two decades and knows all six buildings inside out. Car facts, horsepower numbers and automotive lore roll off his tongue.

It's somewhat overwhelming walking through the buildings that house one of the most eclectic and extensive collections of automotive history in the world. And this is no museum, since all the cars here are licensed, insured and ready to drive. From Bugattis to Stanley Steamers and Detroit Muscle, they patiently wait for their master to come in and pick them for a little spin.

"Is Jay around this morning, Bob?" I ask.

"He comes in every day. But wait. There's an empty stall over there in the Bentley line-up. I guess he came and got a Bentley so he has probably gone to the studio."

As we stroll down the lines of cars, I try to decide which one I would pick to take home. What about the first production ZR1 Corvette, the sixth Dodge Viper ever built or one of the 1960s muscle cars? I eye a green Dodge Coronet with the fabled 426-cubic-inch Hemi V8 engine. It's one of the few automatics though, so forget that one, Garry.

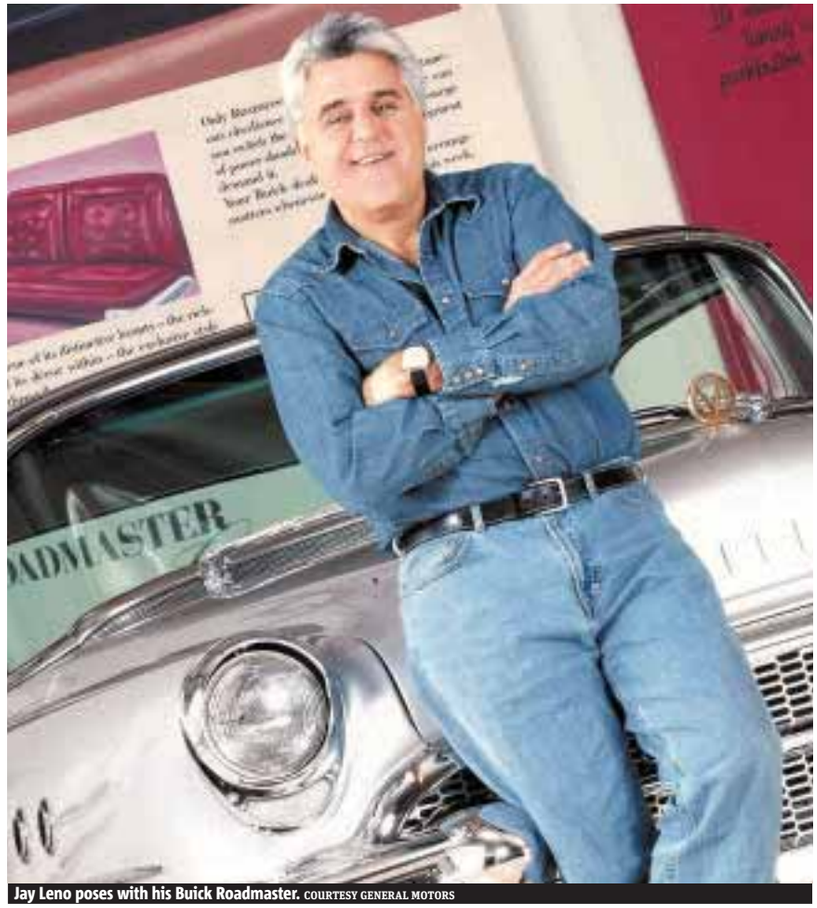
"Jay likes manual-transmission cars but his automotive thirst really is all encompassing." Bob is on a roll now. "Over there is a mid-'60s Chrysler Turbine car. It idles at 26,000 r.p.m." Nice. A jet engine in car. Too bad it never got off the ground, so to speak, because the car is stunning.

Some of the cars look absolutely normal, such as the 1966 tan Oldsmobile Toronado. But under the hood lurks a 1,100-horsepower twin-turbocharged Chevrolet engine. And of course the front-drive car has been retrofitted with rear wheel drive.

Quoted

"Jay likes manual-transmission cars but his automotive thirst really is all-encompassing."

Bob, who has been working on Jay Leno's car collection for more than two decades



Jay Leno poses with his Buick Roadmaster. COURTESY GENERAL MOTORS

This is the exact car that Jay drove to California at the beginning of his career. He kept the Buick Roadmaster all these years and then revamped it with modern suspension and a big Chevrolet V8. COURTESY GENERAL MOTORS

Jay Leno's highly publicized Oldsmobile Toronado was switched to rear-wheel-drive from front and has an entirely hand-built chassis, Corvette suspension and a twin-turbocharged Chevrolet drivetrain. COURTESY GENERAL MOTORS

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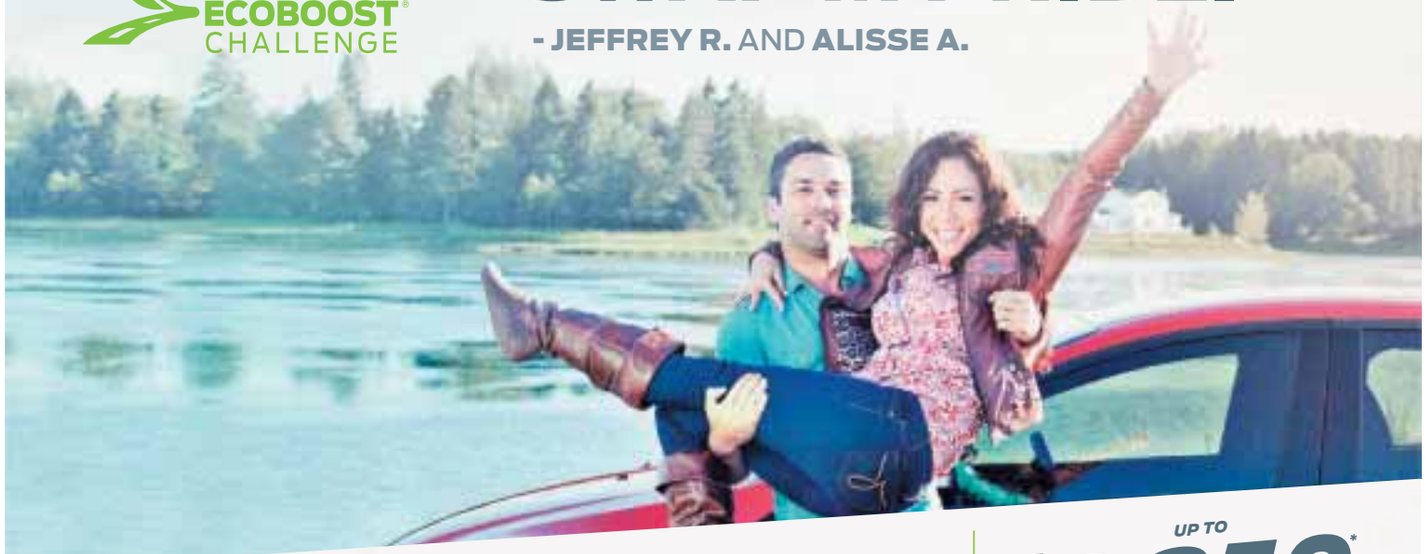

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All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. Delivery Allowances are not combinable with any fleet consumer incentives. ^ Until December 2, 2013, receive [0.99%/3.99%]/[2.49%] APR purchase financing on new 2013 [Focus SE Sport/Fusion S]/2014 [Escape S FWD 2.5L] models for up to [84/84]/[72] months to qualified customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Get the above for [$17,249/$20,999]/[$22,499] purchase financed at [0.99%/3.99%]/[2.49%] APR for [84/84]/[84 months with [$0/$3]/[$0] down payment, monthly payment is [$214/$246]/[$268] and delivery allowance of [$500/$0]/[$500]]. The sum of Twelve (12) monthly payments divided by 26 periods gives payee a bi-weekly payment of [$99/$132]/[$135], interest cost of borrowing is [$566/$3,025]/[$2,017] for APR of [0.99%/3.99%]/[2.49%] and total to be repaid is [$17,815/$24,024]/[$24,517]. Other payment options available. ^^ Offer only valid from September 4, 2013 to October 31, 2013 (the "Offer Period") to resident Canadians with a Costco membership on or before August 31, 2013. Use this $1,000 Costco member offer towards the purchase or lease of a new 2013/2014 Ford (excluding Fiesta, Focus, C-Max, Raptor, GT500, Mustang Boss 302, Transit Connect EV, and Medium Truck) or Lincoln vehicle (each an "Eligible Vehicle"). The Eligible Vehicle must be delivered and/or factory-ordered from your participating Ford dealer within the Offer Period. Offer is only valid at participating dealers, is subject to vehicle availability, and may be cancelled or changed at any time without notice. Only one (1) offer may be applied towards the purchase or lease of one (1) Eligible Vehicle, up to a maximum of two (2 separate Eligible Vehicle sales per Costco Membership Number. Offer is transferable to persons domiciled with an eligible Costco member. Offer is not combinable with any CPW/GPC or Daily Rental incentives, the Commercial Upfit Program or the Commercial Fleet Incentive Program (CPP). Applicable taxes calculated before $1,000 Offer is deducted. ††Receive a winter safety package which includes: four (4) winter tires, four (4) steel wheels and four (4) tire pressure monitoring sensors when you purchase or lease any new 2013/2014 Ford Focus (excluding S and Focus Electric), Escape, Fusion, Edge (excluding Sport), Explorer, Mustang, Taurus, Taurus X, Edge, Flex, Explorer F-Series, MKS, MKX, MK2, MKT and Transit Connect; 20cper km for Expedition and Navigator plus applicable taxes. Excess kilometrage charges subject to change, see your local dealer for details. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. *Purchase a new 2013 [Focus SE Sport/Fusion S] [2014 [Escape S FWD 2.5L] for [$17,249/$20,999]/[$22,499] [after Total Manufacturer Rebate of [$500/$3]/[$500] deducted]. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after total manufacturer rebate has been deducted. Offers exclude freight and air tax ($1,700), license, fuel fill charge, insurance, dealer PDI (except in Quebec), PPSA (if financed or leased), administration fees, any other applicable environmental charges/fees and taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. Delivery Allowances are not combinable with any fleet consumer incentives. ^ Until December 2, 2013, receive [0.99%/3.99%]/[2.49%] APR purchase financing on new 2013 [Focus SE Sport/Fusion S]/2014 [Escape S FWD 2.5L] models for up to [84/84]/[72] months to qualified customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Get the above for [$17,249/$20,999]/[$22,499] purchase financed at [0.99%/3.99%]/[2.49%] APR for [84/84]/[84 months with [$0/$3]/[$0] down payment, monthly payment is [$214/$246]/[$268] and delivery allowance of [$500/$0]/[$500]]. 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Offer includes four (4) all-season tires. Winter tires are meant to be operated during winter conditions and may require a higher cold inflation pressure than all-season tires. Consult your Ford of Canada dealer for details including applicable warranty coverage. ©2013 Sirius Canada Inc. "SiriusXM", the SiriusXM logo, channel names and logos are trademarks of SiriusXM Radio Inc. and are used under licence. ©2013 Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. All rights reserved.

Tricks and tips. How to winterize your driving and car for a safe start

Driving can be dangerous during harsh winter weather if your vehicle isn't properly prepared. Start off the season right by winterizing your vehicle before taking to the road. To make sure you and your vehicle are ready for the season, Goodyear Canada has some useful tips to get you to your destination safely:

Service your vehicle
Make sure you have enough antifreeze and windshield wiper fluid. For a correct amount of antifreeze to withstand the winter temperatures, a 50/50 mix of antifreeze to water is sufficient. You can go through windshield wiper fluid in one snowstorm, so be sure to completely fill your vehicle's reservoir before the first snowfall hits.

Practice makes perfect
It's important to be alert when driving on snow-covered roadways because winter hazards make it difficult to handle your vehicle. In order to know how your vehicle performs in the winter weather, it may be helpful to practise driving techniques in an empty, open parking lot.

Inflation is essential
Keep in mind that when the temperature drops, the air pressure in your tires also decreases. Proper tire inflation is essential for vehicle stability, fuel efficiency, optimum steering, grip, wear and load-carrying capabilities.

Easy does it
Remember to stay extra cautious of other vehicles when driving. Make sure you leave at least three times more space than usual between your vehicle and the one in front of you.

NEWS CANADA

Proper tire inflation is essential for vehicle stability, fuel efficiency, optimum steering, grip, wear and load-carrying capabilities. ISTOCK

KIA cars

Winter-ready cars made to weather Canada's cold

Imagine being able to buy a vehicle already kitted-out for a Canadian winter.

KIA recently launched a new series of special edition winter-ready packages for three of its models; the Forte compact sedan, Sorento SUV and Rondo UUV.

All three already come with heated front seats, heated mirrors and windshield wiper de-icer, but the winter-ready trim package will include things like remote starters, winter floor mats, heated rear seats and steering wheels, and winter tires. The exact package depends on the type of vehicle purchased. Visit kia.ca for full details.

METRO

Seasons change — so should your tires

Winter driving conditions can be hazardous — from snow storms to black ice — so it's best to gear up with the proper tires, experts say. ISTOCK

Maximum control.

It's the quality of your tires that contributes the most to just how much traction your car really has

Car experts agree that when the seasons change — and the temperatures dip — drivers should also be thinking of an important switchover on their vehicles.

Despite motorists all across the country reminding themselves about replacing ice scrapers and snow brushes in their car trunks, there are still a large number of Canadians unsure of the benefits of winter tires for their vehicles.

The experts, however, concur — winter tires are highly recommended.

"This time of year serves as an annual checkpoint and reminder for the importance of having proper winter tires on your vehicle," says Ian MacDonald, director of marketing at autoTRADER.ca.

"Too many fender benders and accidents are preventable for want of proper tires. It's an investment that pays off in peace of mind — knowing your vehicle can perform better despite the conditions," he says, adding that winter tires are a must-have for a number of scientific reasons.

Specialized for the season
Winter tires are made from rubber that has been specially engineered to maintain its elasticity in colder weather — which means they'll cut through ice and snow, gripping the road much better than summer or even all season tires could ever hope to. Specialized tread also works to give drivers maximum control despite the weather.

Tech will only take you so far
While features that have become commonplace on many vehicles, such as Anti-Lock Brake Systems (ABS), four-wheel drive and traction control, are designed to help keep your car under control, they don't necessarily help it get more grip. It's the quality of your tires that contributes the most to just how much traction your car really has, and winter tires give you the lion's share of it.

A strategic purchase
While the initial financial investment in winter tires may make you want to put it off (as much as $500, depending on the brand, including winter rims), swapping your winters for your all-seasons and back again as the weather changes means having to think less about needing new tires in general.

NEWS CANADA

Always be prepared

It's important to be prepared in case something goes wrong and that includes a well-equipped emergency kit. What items should you include?

- A cellphone (if you don't carry one)
- First aid kit
- A candle and matches
- Bottled water and snacks
- A blanket, gloves, and additional warm clothing
- Flashlight and batteries
- Tire gauge and jumper cables
- Small tool kit

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– Nadine Filion, *Le Guide de l'Auto*

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^ HWY (M/T): 6.2L/100KM
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Leather-wrapped Steering Wheel • Leather-wrapped Shift Knob • Front Fog Lights • Keyless Entry • Alloy Wheels • Automatic Headlights
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KIA

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Come on, do you think Infiniti would steer you the wrong way?

Driving force. How automaker connects with the driver by disconnecting the steering wheel

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

At one time, cars all had manual steering, and it took brute force to muscle them into a parking spot. Then came power steering, which used a hydraulic pump to lighten the effort, and then electric power steering, which replaced the pump with an electric motor.

Infiniti has now introduced its Direct Adaptive Steering, or DAS, a completely electronic system that uses "steer-by-wire" instead of an actual connection between the steering wheel and the front tires. The system debuts on the all-new Infiniti Q50 sports sedan.

A smooth ride

"We're able to affect how heavy the wheel feels and how quickly it turns. If you're on a long road trip you'll want a relaxed drive, or a spirited drive on a back road."

Tim Franklin, senior manager of product planning for Infiniti Canada

The Infiniti Q50. BOTH PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Choose what type of steering you want with the new system using the dash.

"One of the primary advantages is the ability to change the character of the car," says Tim Franklin, senior manager of product planning for Infiniti Canada. "We're able to affect how heavy the wheel feels and how quickly it turns. If you're on a long road trip you'll want a relaxed drive, or a spirited drive on a back road."

Extras

- Electronic steering systems can be used in safety systems, including guiding a vehicle back if the driver inadvertently crosses out of the lane.
- The Q50's system "tunes out" vibrations caused by rough pavement for a smoother driver.

The system uses actuators on the steering wheel and on the steering rack, along with a central control unit. When the driver turns the wheel, the wheel actuator sends the information to the control unit. This unit, in turn, sends information to the actuator on the steering rack, telling it how far to turn the tires. Infiniti says that the steering response is much faster than with a conventional mechanical connection.

Through a central touchscreen, the driver can set the steering feel, ranging from sporty to comfort. The steering wheel actuator adjusts the steering weight — the amount of force it takes to move the wheel. More weight gives a sportier feel, while less weight makes for a relaxing drive.

The system also changes the steering ratio, which determines how far you have to turn the wheel. A "quick" ratio moves the tires farther when the wheel is turned a little, producing a sporty feel where the driver doesn't have to spin the steering wheel as much to go around curves. A slower ratio is preferable for highway driving, since it takes less effort and concentration to keep the car centred in the lane.

Although there's no mechanical link during normal driving, the Q50's system has a fail-safe. If the car's electrical power fails, a clutch on the steering column instantly connects the steering wheel to the rack so the driver remains in control.

"The Q50 is still a sports sedan at its core, and customers want a sporty feel, but they also take it on road trips," Franklin says. "Instead of splitting (the feel) and making a compromise, DAS lets them tailor it to how they want to drive."

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Having given your word about something, you can't break it because circumstances have changed and it suits you to change too. If you do, your reputation will head south fast, and so will your finances.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Listen to your instincts today and do what they tell you. If you ignore them and lose out in some way, you will only have yourself to blame. Your inner eye sees everything.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You're not the type to follow the same path as everyone. You like to blaze a trail and that is exactly what you should do today. Some will criticize you — mainly out of envy.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
If you must work almost non-stop, at least make sure you are working for yourself and not for people who benefit from your efforts. Better still, find a way to cut back on what you are doing. Put your wellbeing first.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You cannot change the world but you can change your own attitude — and that will be a thousand times more productive. Your ultimate responsibility is to yourself.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You want to be on the move and very soon you will be. Today, though, spend time checking and rechecking your plans, just in case you have missed something.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Do what your instincts tell you is right, even if it means you stir up powerful forces that see you as a threat. And don't listen to those who say the old ways are the best. What they mean is they benefit from them.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You want to protect your privacy but you also want to get out in the world. Somehow you will have to reconcile these two driving principles. Learn to compartmentalize your life.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You know exactly what you want to be doing and exactly what you ought to be doing and for once the two coincide perfectly. Both at home and at work life will be easy today.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You may be impatient to start something new but the planets suggest that for best results you should leave it a day or two. The approaching eclipse will focus your mind and your energy with laser-like intensity.

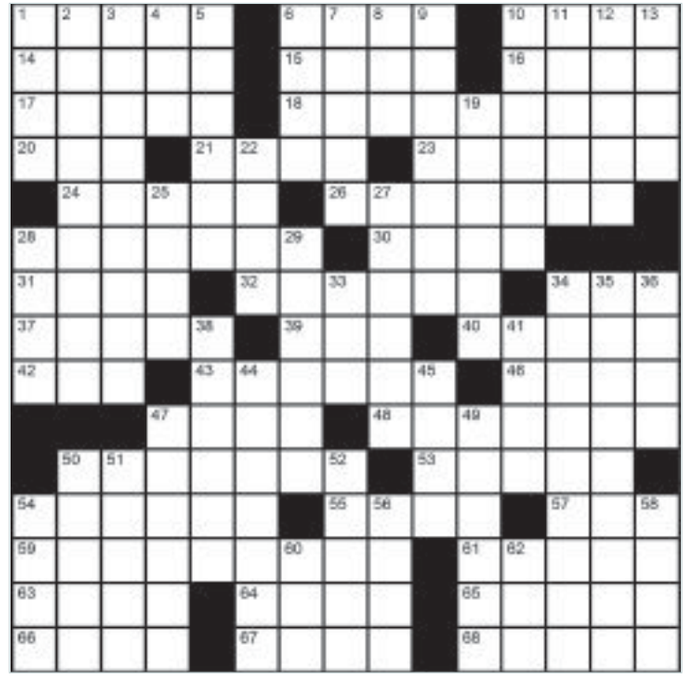
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
What can you do to make the world a better place? Be a better person. That may sound a bit too simple but really it's the only viable course of action if you want to make a deep and lasting difference.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You may be tempted to go public with news that makes a rival look bad but don't be too hasty. Do they know things about you that you don't want revealed? If so, think again. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



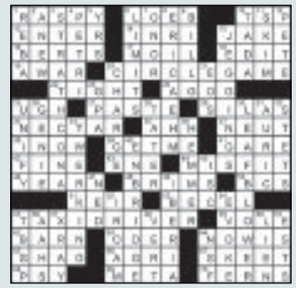
Across

1. Mischief manufacturization
6. Madrid 'water'
10. Pepper __
14. Pantheon of Norse gods
15. "..._ _ digress..."
16. 'Hypn' suffix
17. Ms. Stanger of "The Millionaire Matchmaker"
18. Labatt Blue, for one: 2 wds.
20. Coming-in-plane, e.g.
21. Potato chip brand
23. Skillfully sidesteps something
24. Sushi shapes
26. Operating Room professional
28. Artist of 1905 painting Woman with a Hat
30. Subatomic particle
31. Burden
32. Scarf-like garment
34. Detectives, for short
37. Monsters
39. Law: French
40. "Home __" (1990)
42. TKO caller
43. Uses Twitter
46. Sky bear
47. Yes
48. Saskatchewan city since 1882
50. Judicious
53. Songbook standard: "You __ __ Sunshine"
54. Suspect stories from flax fibres
13. Flat-screen TVs, e.g.
19. Capital of Colombia
22. Abbreviated aide
25. Ms. Watier of cosmetics
27. Haughty
28. The Tragedy of Othello, the __ of Venice (Shakespeare tragedy)
29. "Don't Walk Away __" by Sam Roberts
33. The Raven poet's surname
34. 'City of the Arts', part of Metro Vancouver: 2 wds.
35. How some canned sardines are packed: 3 wds.
36. Sitcom star Mr. Hayes
38. Painter's abode
41. Gospel scribe
44. Do like Hulk Hogan
45. Drench
47. Rent out your apartment
49. _-__ movie
50. Beach: French
51. Streamlets
52. "__ Song" by Sisqo
54. "Take _ __" by Madonna
56. Cans
58. Leg point
60. Prevent
62. Cheyenne's li'l state
55. Maori warriors' traditional war cry/dance
57. Traditional tree
59. Where to deposit a vote: 2 wds.
61. Q."It's half past __ __ my watch, what does yours say?" A."Three o'clock, it must be fast."
63. Gawk at
64. Highway division
65. Singer Ms. Gorme (b.1928 - d.2013)
66. Towards BC
67. Energy units
68. CBC's "Republic of __"

Down

1. "__ Don't Preach" by Madonna
2. Change around
3. Sports stadium surface, sometimes
4. Puny parasite
5. Shrimp-like creatures
6. Donna Mills' role on "Knots Landing"
7. Jeans company
8. Sport-__ (All-purpose vehicle)
9. City near Calgary
10. 'See History Unfold' city in southern Manitoba
11. "Give __ _ __." (Try)
12. Fabric fabricated

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

		2				5	8	
5	4						6	
			5		1	9		
		3			5	1		6
			6		8			
1		9	2			7		
		6	8		9			
	8						3	9
	3	7				8		

Yesterday's Sudoku

5	6	9	3	4	1	8	7	2
4	3	8	9	7	2	6	5	1
7	2	1	6	8	5	3	9	4
3	9	5	4	1	7	2	6	8
2	8	6	5	9	3	4	1	7
1	4	7	8	2	6	9	3	5
9	5	2	7	3	8	1	4	6
8	7	3	1	6	4	5	2	9
6	1	4	2	5	9	7	8	3

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